



7-Minute Briefing: Public Protection Committee Multi Agency Chronologies Guidance (2022)

1. Background

First agreed in December 2018 this updated guidance provides organisations and practitioners with advice and tools to support the effective initiation, maintenance and application of single agency and integrated chronologies.

The document has been reviewed and updated to clarify practice standards and make it more user friendly for practitioners

2. Why it matters

Chronologies provide a key link in the chain of understanding needs/risks, including the need for protection from harm.

They also help to highlight gaps and omitted details that require further exploration, investigation, and assessment.

Care Inspectorate 2017

7. What to do

Read the guidance on the DGPPP website [here](#).

Find out about your agency's systems for initiating and maintaining chronologies.

Consider using a chronology to help you get to know the people you work with and to help them build a picture of their life events.

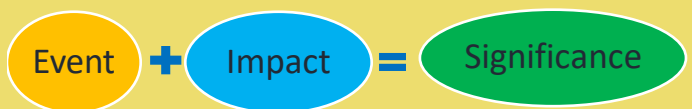
Share relevant chronological information when raising Child Protection or Adult Support & Protection concerns.

Analyse and review chronologies to support your understanding of current or cumulative events and their implications for any support or intervention required.

3. Information

A chronology is a summary list of known significant events in someone's life, set out sequentially, which identifies the impact and the outcome for the person.

A **significant event** is defined not by the nature of the event but the impact that it has for the individual. What might be significant for one person is not necessarily so for others.



4. Information

The significance of an event can be positive, negative or neither, in terms of impact on the child or adult.

While in Public Protection work, we often deal with trauma and crisis; positive events, achievements and developments are also relevant in evidencing how progress has been made, needs are being met, or protective steps are taken by the person themselves, parents, carers, or wider networks.

5. Information

Chronologies support analysis of current circumstances by providing a picture of historical events which may inform when risk/harm and their consequences can be predicted; which actions or interventions have worked well to keep the person and others safe in the past; and which have not.

6. Questions to Consider

What happened?

How does this event affect the person?

Has this event increased or reduced the risk/harm to them or others?

Does the chronology contain any patterns of events or behaviours that can help us predict future safety or harm?

What (if any) action do I need to take now?